(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The matter is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Railway accidents in the country

637.. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the railway accidents which took place after the Government took over;

(b) what is the extent of loss of human lives and property due to these accidents;

(c) what is the compensation paid by Government to the victims and to the next of kin; and

(d) the causes of the accidents and the steps taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There were 203 train accidents, comprising of 11 collisions, 177 derailments, 14 accidents at level crossings and one case of fire in trains, on Indian Railways during the period 21-6-1991 to 31-10-1991.

(b) In these accidents, 87 persons, including 58 passengers, lost their lives and the damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 7.03 crores.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. However a sum of Rs. 7.55 lakhs has been paid as ex-gratia relief to the next kin of the deceased and the injured.

(d) The accidents occurred due to human failure, equipment failure and sabotage etc. Some of the important steps being taken to reduce the accidents are induction of technical devices to aid the human element, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations, monitoring the performance of the staff of critical safety categories such as drivers, guards, station masters, etc., intensive training including psychological checks of staff in operational categories surprise checks against carriage of inflammable/explosive material in passenger trains, provision of whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings and improving visibility for road users and train drivers.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th January, 1991 to Starred Question 142 regarding chemicals developed by O.N.G.C.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair].

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I have a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish the statement by the Minister correcting the answer to Question No. 142 answered on 7th January, 1991. Shri B. Shankaranand.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, may I make a submission?

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, इसी पर कहना चाहता हूं कि 7 जनवरी, 1991 को दिए गए प्रश्न का स्पष्टीकरण अगर नवम्बर, में हो तो 9 महीने से अधिक की देरी इस स्पष्टीकरण पर क्यों हुई ? पहले मंत्री महोदय यह बताएं ।